

REMARKS

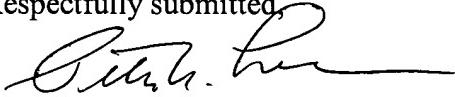
Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of claims 10-13. Claims 1, 2, 8 and 17 have been amended to remedy minor informalities. Applicant further submits, however, that rejected claims 1-9 and 14-28 and newly submitted claims 29 and 30 are inobvious in view of Kempfer taken with Lomax et al.

As indicated in Applicant's response to the previous Office Action, Kempfer fails to disclose the basic arrangement of the claimed subject matter because it simply discloses electrically coupling the fuel cell to a pre-heater which, in turn, heats a catalytic converter. In no manner does the fuel cell of Kempfer thermally couple with the catalytic converter thereof, any other component of the engine or any of the operatively connected components thereof.

Lomax et al also fails to teach any modification of the arrangement disclosed in Kempfer to arrive at the claimed invention. Lomax et al merely discloses and teaches the conveyance of a hydrogen gas stream from a reformer to a fuel cell in the conventional manner for producing electrical current to operate a motor, and providing a metal hydride buffer in a line between the reformer and the fuel cell which functions to selectively store hydrogen from the hydrogen gas stream and release such stored hydrogen to the fuel cell responsive to increased demands of the motor being operated by the fuel cell. It in no manner discloses or teaches any thermal coupling between the reformer of a fuel cell and a component operatively connected to an internal combustion engine such as an air intake means, an exhaust gas means, an exhaust gas treatment system, a coolant system or an exhaust gas return line, as recited in the Applicant's claims.

In view of the foregoing, it respectfully is requested that the rejection of claims 1-9 and 14-28 be withdrawn, such claims, along with newly submitted claims 29 and 30 be allowed and that the application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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